

June 27, 2013

The Marion County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting, & public hearings on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 7:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers City Hall, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Elista H. Smith, Chairperson; Buddy Collins, Vice Chairman; John Q. Atkinson, Jr., Allen W. Floyd, Thomas E. Shaw and Milton W. Troy, II. Also present were G. Timothy Harper, Administrator; Charles L. McLain, III, County Attorney; Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council. A representative from the Star & Enterprise was not present and duly notified.

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Miller with Cathedral Bible College to lead the Invocation, after which she welcomed visitors and read the Freedom of Information Announcement.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Collins, seconded by Mr. Shaw, and carried unanimously, to approve as written, the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 11, 2013; and a special called meeting on June 24, 2013.

Motion was made by Mr. Vice Chairman Collins, seconded by Mr. Atkinson, and carried unanimously, to recess the regular meeting and open public hearings for Ordinances #2013-04 and 2013-05.

The County Attorney opened the floor to the public for questions. There were no questions from the public regarding these ordinances.

Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Vice Chairman Collins, and carried unanimously, to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting.

The County Attorney stated that second, and third reading for the ordinances listed on the agenda as follows was ready: A. Third Reading of Ordinance # 2013-04 Fiscal Year Budget 2013-2014; B. Second Reading of Ordinance #2013-05 An Ordinance
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Confirming the Inclusion of Certain Property of Angus-Palm LLC in a Joint County Industrial and Business Park with Florence County; Providing for an Extension Thereof; and Addressing Other Matters Related Thereto.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Collins, seconded by Mr. Shaw, and carried unanimously, to table item A. after executive session. The County Attorney explained the necessity of tabling this item. He stated that a personnel matter needs to be discussed in executive session.

The County Attorney told Council that item B. on the agenda; Second Reading of Ordinance #2013-05 An Ordinance Confirming the Inclusion of Certain Property of Angus-Palm LLC in a Joint County Industrial and Business Park with Florence County; Providing for an Extension Thereof; and Addressing Other Matters Related Thereto was ready: Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Atkinson, and carried unanimously, to approve second reading of Ordinance #2013-05.

Vice Chairman Collins stated for the record that he had a written proxy from Councilman Jenkins voting in favor of all matters.

Vice Chairman Collins read the report of Committee # 2, which met on Thursday June 13, 2013 at 5:15 P.M. to discuss locating a building for the NASA Science, Mathematics, and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) project. Those present were Chairman Collins, Thomas Shaw, Simon Jenkins; G. Timothy Harper, Administrator; Kent M. Williams, Deputy Administrator; and Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council. Milton W. Troy, II also attended the meeting. Chairman Collins asked Mr. Harper if the County owned a building with 10,000 square ft. Mr. Harper responded that the County does not at this time. Chairman Collins told the committee that Ms. Roberts has shown interest in the Rains Centenary Elementary School located on South Highway 501. Chairman Collins told the committee that Ms. Roberts said that the school board has given their approval, but Dr. Strickland has not given the final approval.

After a brief discussion, it was the recommendation of the committee to notify Ms. Roberts that the County does not have a building available at this time. Chairman Collins also recommended that Ms. Roberts return to the school board and Dr. Strickland regarding the Rains Centenary Elementary School. Motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and carried unanimously.

Chairman Collins stated that Ms. Roberts needs to contact the Senator and Representative for further assistance. Committee #2 report was received as information.

There was no report given by or Committee #1.

Mrs. Ruth Brady with the Historic Marion Revitalization Association (HMRA) appeared before Council to request the use of the Francis Marion Square every
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Saturday for the purpose of setting up Marion's Farmers Market from 9:00-1:00. This said matter was referred to Committee #1 for review.

Dr. R. Wayne Miller with Cathedral Bible College appeared before Council to give a brief update. Dr. Miller told Council that Cathedral Bible College provides a well balanced program for the training of Ministers, missionaries, full-time Christian workers and laymen. He stated that this school is authorized under Federal Law to enroll non-immigrant students. Cathedral Bible College is allowed to enroll Veterans Administration Students. Dr. Miller stated that Cathedral Bible College is a non-denominational Bible College having had students from 40 Nations and presently with students from 26 nations. He also stated that the Accredited Commission International accredits about 300 bible colleges in America. Chairperson Smith along with the members of Council thanked Dr. Miller for locating Cathedral Bible College to Marion County.

The County Attorney told Council that a lawsuit has been filed against the County in reference to a 2011 tax sale. Mr. McLain stated that the lawsuit has been filed and assigned to an attorney.

The County Administrator updated Council on the New County Administration Building. Mr. Harper told Council that he has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Dan Mace on Tuesday, July 2nd at 10:00 a.m. to review the plans.

The Administrator updated Council on the Capital Sales Tax. Mr. Harper told Council that a pre-construction conference was held in reference to the Grice's Recreational Center. He also told Council that the County has received the plans on the Courthouse and the Archives building renovations. Mr. Harper stated that the pre-bid conference will be held on Wednesday, July 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Marion County Administration Building, and bids will be opened on Thursday, August 1st at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Harper told Council that the renovations are completed at the Marion County Administration Building regarding Family Court. He stated that Family Court will be held on Monday, July 8th.

The Administrator passed out a flyer in reference to the Independence Day Celebration. The event will take place on Friday, June 28th at Withlacoochee Park from 3:30-10:00 p.m. Mr. Harper told Council that Commander Al Agnew will be speaking at the Marion County Museum from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Administrator passed out copies of a letter from the Attorney General in reference to the Administration at the Marion County Prison Camp. Mr. Harper told Council that the responsibility for inmates housed at the Marion County Prison Camp ultimately lies with the County Administrator and not the Sheriff.

The Administrator told Council that he had a meeting with Mr. Mike Griffin and Mr. Tim Lee with Griffin Brothers Greenway Waste Solutions. Mr. Harper provided Council with information in reference to the Marion County C&D Landfill. He also included the original agreement from 2004 and the addendum from 2008. Mr. Harper stated that Mr. Griffin would be glad to attend a meeting and present a thorough update regarding the landfill.

Motion was made by Chairperson Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Collins, to adopt a resolution for Mr. Frank Jones for his hard work and dedication throughout the County. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Smith asked Mr. Harper if a church, house, or business is built where there is no fire hydrant in the area, and Marco Rural Water installs the hydrant who responsibility is it to have one installed. Mr. Harper stated that the cost to install a fire hydrant through Marco is \$5,000. He also stated that Mr. Hook said that it's there policy whether it's a church, house, or business the cost is the same.

Motion was made by Mr. Atkinson, seconded by Mr. Floyd, to adopt a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Jim Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Atkinson told Council that they need an appointee to the Revolving Loan Committee of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments. Mr. Atkinson stated that he had to step down because you cannot be on the committee and also be a board member.

Mr. Troy asked Mr. Harper about the diversity committee. Mr. Harper stated that Chairperson Smith, and Ms. Ogleretta D. White had a telephone conference with Ms. Tan Kirby Davis, who is the founder and president of the Kirby Resource Group. Chairperson Smith stated that Ms. Davis is eager to get started with the strategic diversity planning for Marion County. Chairperson Smith stated that there will be four different steps; diversity and inclusion, leadership presentation, strategy discussion and planning, and strategy planning and implementation. She stated that Representative Wayne George stated that funding would not be a problem. Chairperson Smith stated that their plans are to begin in September.

Mr. Troy wanted to know if the County had a policy in place in reference to the appointees that do not attend the boards and commissions meetings. Mr. Troy stated that it would be appropriate for Council to have a policy in place regarding this said matter. Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Atkinson, that anyone appointed to a board or commission and miss three consecutive unexcused absences will be removed from that board or commission. Mr. Troy also stated that responsible Council member will be required to replace them. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Atkinson, seconded by Vice Chairman Collins, and carried unanimously, to go into executive session for a personnel and an economic development matter.

Motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Vice Chairman Collins, and carried unanimously, to close executive session and reopen the regular scheduled meeting. Chairperson Smith stated that no action was taken during executive session called for a personnel and an economic development matter.

The Administrator presented to Council the Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance for 2013-2014. Mr. Harper told Council that the budget is \$17,161,152. He stated that this is a balanced budget, with a 3 mil tax increase. 0.50 increase in solid waste rates. He stated that there is an increase rate in health insurance, 1% increase in retirement, a 3.5 % cost of living increase for those under \$40,000 and 1.5% for those over \$40,000. Mr. Harper stated that there is an increase in salaries for those employees who are not at the minimum salary range according to the wage and salary study that was performed by the Archer Company. He stated that most of these increases occurred in the areas of Public Safety (Det. Center, EMS, E-911 & Sheriff's Department). There is a continuation of the 2 COPS grant positions in the Sheriff's Department. There are no new positions. Capital projects include-computers, 2 trucks, and a trailer, a van at the Detention Center, 6 new patrol cars, 1 ambulance, Repairs to the roof at the Airport and the Prison Camp, Tractor and Dump truck in Road and Bridges, carpet and chairs at the E-911 Center and Magistrates office, a sign machine for GIS Mapping, and a filing system in the VA office. Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to approve the Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance #2013-2014. Chairperson Smith asked if there was any discussion, Vice Chairman Collins made a motion to amend to the budget to include the following amendments. (1.) Remove the fluctuating overtime to regular overtime for the Sheriff's Department. (2.) Each employee receives a 3.5% across the board cost of living increase. (3) Increase the Clerk to Council salary to \$31,400. The motion was seconded by Mr. Floyd, and carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Collins made a motion to approve third reading of Ordinance #2013-04 Fiscal Year Budget 2013-2014 including the amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Floyd, and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:20 P.M.

Elista H. Smith, Chairperson

Buddy Collins, Vice Chairman

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.
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Allen W. Floyd

(absent)

Simon Jenkins, Chaplain

Thomas E. Shaw

Milton W. Troy, II

G. Timothy Harper, Administrator

Charles L. McLain, III County Attorney

Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council